UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

January 12, 1926.

F.S.
HE-10

FOREIGN NEWS ON HEMP

THE FOREIGN HEMP SITUATION IN DECEMBER

The hemp market in Italy was inactive in the latter part of December and prices were about 10 per cent lower than at the same time in November, according to a report received in the Department of Agriculture from Consul Dominian at Rome. Italian demand was considered normal but demand from France and Germany continued weak. The trade was reported as anticipating some improvement after the beginning of the year. November exports to the United States amounted to 405 short tons of raw hemp and 39 tons of fine hemp.

There is a possibility, according to the Consul, that the 1926 acreage devoted to hemp will be smaller than last year because of the higher wheat prices prevailing as a result of the government's encouragement of wheat raising.

The 1925 production of hemp fiber in Poland is placed at 59,524,000 pounds compared with a previous estimate of 61,730,000 pounds, according to a radiogram from the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. The 1924 crop amounted to 49,190,000 pounds. The flax fiber crop is now placed at 134,481,000 pounds compared with an earlier estimate of 118,390,000 and 96,220,000 pounds in 1924.

SHIPMENTS OF HENEQUEN FROM YUCATAN

December shipments of henequen from Progresso totaled 56,467 bales of which 44,857 bales went to the United States, according to a report from Vice Consul Vogenitz, Progresso. Total shipments for the year amounted to 703,218 bales compared with 614,713 in 1924. January 1st stocks at Progresso were 75,865 bales, and those at Campeche were estimated at 8,000. An additional 15,000 or more were in the possession of planters and the railroad. Prices were unchanged at the end of the month. The quality of the fiber is said to be improving.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

April 2, 1926

F.S.
HE-11

FOREIGN NEWS ON HEMP

HEMP PRODUCTION IN CHILE

Practically all of the hemp grown in Chile is produced in Aconcagua and Valparaiso, states Consul Deane at Valparaiso. The climate of the entire central valley is very favorable for hemp culture, and it is thought that with modern methods of cultivation and retting a very fine quality of hemp fiber could be obtained.

At present the hemp produced is dark colored and does not have the tenacity and elasticity of the imported cords and ropes. The dark color is due to the primitive and careless retting process in use or to unexpected rains after the pulling and before the retting. The hemp is also generally pulled too ripe, with the result that the fiber obtained is coarse. Recently one of the largest hemp spinning mills has imported a trial shipment of hemp-cutting machines from the United States.

Although production for the past three years has been below that of any year from 1917 to 1921, Chile has produced more hemp fiber than its hemp manufacturers could consume, and imports have been insignificant as compared with exports. Argentina has usually taken the largest amount, but in 1924 Great Britain entered the Chilean hemp market and took over half the entire amount exported. The decreased production has been reflected in higher prices.

No figures are yet available for the crop year 1924-25 but it is estimated by the National Agricultural Society that in view of the increased amount of water available in the past year the area sown was some 10 per cent greater than for 1923-24, while favorable weather conditions caused an increase in the production per acre.

Area and production by provinces, for 1922-23 and 1923-24 according to official sources, are as follows:

Province	1923			1924		
	Area	Production		Area	Production	
		Fiber	Seed		Fiber	Seed
	Acres	Pounds	Pounds	Acres	Pounds	Pounds
Coquimbo	91	3,726	7,231	27	3,726	2,822
Aconcagua	1,428	219,799	142,638	1,453	151,456	132,651
Valparaiso	667	90,521	94,666	803	115,587	104,322
O'Higgins	37	11,684	4,409	37	11,684	4,409
Colchagua	-	-	-	5	309	176
Talca	22	4,409	1,102	32	7,936	1,499
Total ...	2,245	330,139	250,046	2,357	290,698	245,879

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

April 15, 1926

F.S.
HE-12

FOREIGN NEWS ON HEMP AND OTHER COARSE FIBERS
(continuing Nos. 1 - 11 on hemp)

ITALIAN HEMP ACREAGE SLIGHTLY REDUCED

The total acreage planted to hemp in Italy this year will probably be slightly below that of 1925 but considerably above that of 1924, according to estimates received in the Department of Agriculture from Consuls Haven at Florence and Byington at Naples. Consul Haven reports that planting in northern Italy, which was completed at the end of March, is thought to amount to about 155,000 acres or about 17 per cent less than last year, although no official estimate of the acreage is available. Consul Byington at Naples, on the other hand, reports that the area in that region is estimated at 95,600 acres as compared with 85,000 last year, with planting having taken place under favorable weather conditions. The increase in the south, if borne out, will partially offset the decrease indicated for northern Italy.

The total area devoted to hemp in Italy in 1925 has been reported by the International Institute of Agriculture as 271,800 acres compared with 173,500 in 1924. Separate estimates for the 1925 area in the various provinces have not been received from the Institute, but northern Italy, according to unofficial estimates reported by Consuls, last year had an area of about 186,000 acres. This would indicate that the area in southern Italy was about 86,000 acres. The acreage in the north averaged about 60 per cent of the total area for all Italy during the three years 1923-25.

The following data based on unofficial estimates forwarded by Consuls, are thought to indicate the tendency in Italian hemp production as compared with last year:

Region	1926	1925
	Acres	Acres
Northern Italy:		
Rovigo	17,300	51,000
Bologna	29,660	27,181
Ferrara	98,840	98,840
Others	9,000	9,000
Total	154,800	186,021
Southern Italy: (Incomplete)	95,600	85,000 a/
Total Italy	250,400	271,021

a/ Figure reported by Consul Byington, Naples. Difference between official total for all Italy and the unofficial figure for northern Italy would be 86,000 acres.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

April 20, 1926

F.S.
HE-13

FOREIGN NEWS ON HEMP AND OTHER COARSE FIBERS
(continuing Nos. 1 - 12 on hemp)

ESTIMATES OF ITALIAN HEMP ACREAGE LOWERED

The total acreage planted to hemp in Italy this year will probably be somewhat smaller than previously thought, according to the latest information reaching the Department of Agriculture. The reduction in the estimate is the result of new estimates of the acreage in southern Italy. Consul Byington at Naples cables that the latest unofficial estimate of the acreage is that 10 to 15 per cent less than last year has been planted. This report, while contradictory to the last one received for southern Italy, is thought to be somewhat more accurate than the previous estimate indicating an increase of about 10,000 acres, inasmuch as it is in line with estimates for northern Italy where somewhat better information is usually available. There has been no change in the estimate of a 17 per cent reduction for northern Italy.

If the reports of the acreage planted in both northern and southern Italy received to date prove accurate, the total Italian area will be about 15 per cent below the 272,000 acres of last year, or in the neighborhood of 230,000 acres. The 1924 acreage was 173,500 acres.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

May 12, 1926

F.S.
HE-14

FOREIGN NEWS ON HEMP

DECREASE IN ITALIAN HEMP ACREAGE CONFIRMED

Recent cables received in the Department of Agriculture confirm previous reports that the Italian hemp acreage would be below that of last year, and an Italian government statement indicates that the area will be even smaller than has been reported. The International Institute of Agriculture reports an official Italian estimate that the total area will be as small as that of 1924 when about 173,500 acres were cultivated. The indicated reduction of almost 100,000 acres is reported as being sown to sugar beets and potatoes.

Vice-Consul Hurd at Florence, however, cables that private estimates still place the acreage planted in northern Italy at about the same figure as previously estimated, that is, around 155,000 acres, or a reduction of only about 17 per cent from last year. The southern Italian area has previously been reported as only 10 to 15 per cent below last year. These estimates, of course, are unofficial and may not be borne out.

According to Mr. Hurd, the development of the crop has been considerably retarded in northern Italy by continuous cold weather. A recent cable from the International Institute, commenting upon general crop conditions in Italy, states that conditions are good in northern Italy but that cooler weather is desirable in the southern section and that rain is needed in some parts of the country. Sicily experienced hot, drying winds at the end of April that were severe enough to cause some damage to the almond and lemon crops.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

May 27, 1926.

F.S.
HE-15

FOREIGN NEWS ON HEMP AND OTHER COARSE FIBERS

HEMP PROSPECTS IN SOUTHERN ITALY

The damage to the hemp crop in Southern Italy from dry weather in April has been relieved by May rains and the plants are blossoming well, according to a cablegram received in the Department of Agriculture from Consul Byington at Naples. The prospect at present is for superior quality but a smaller yield than last year.

Vice Consul Schott at Naples reports that large stocks, estimated at 40 million pounds, were on hand in the middle of April, whereas last year no stocks were carried over. The quality of the 1924 crop, however, was excellent while last year's crop was generally much inferior. Average prices now prevailing are materially lower than those of last year. Prices quoted at Naples converted to United States currency at current rate were as follows:

Trade	Dec. 1, 1924	Mar. 30, 1925	Mar. 30, 1926
	Dollars per 100 lbs.	Dollars per 100 lbs.	Dollars per 100 lbs.
Spago da Calzolaio	20.02	20.41	14.68
Paesano extra 1, chairo		19.94	13.58
Paesano extra 1	18.65	19.57	12.58
Paesano vero 1	18.45	18.64	12.30
Paesano extra extra scolorato		17.33	14.71
Paesano extra scolorato		16.77	
Spontino 1	24.17	26.09	21.79
Spontino 11	23.67	25.16	20.97
Spontino 111	22.70	24.23	19.96

Declared exports to the United States from Naples during the first three months of 1926 were 33,070 pounds compared with 256,256 pounds for the same period in 1925.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

July 2, 1926

F.S.
H-16

FOREIGN NEWS ON FIBERS

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AVERAGE HEMP YIELD IN ITALY

Conditions in Italy point to about normal hemp yields according to cabled reports received in the Department of Agriculture from Consul-General Byington at Naples and Vice-Consul Hurd at Florence.

Since the acreage is considerably below last year the total production is expected to be well below last year's harvest of 273,000,000 pounds when the yield was above average in quantity. On the basis of the acreage reported by the International Institute of Agriculture an average crop would be about 155,000,000 pounds, while on the basis of information on acreage submitted by the Consular Service a harvest in the neighborhood of 205,000,000 pounds might be expected.

Vice-Consul Hurd states that the crop of northern Italy has been retarded by continuous unfavorable weather but not damaged, and that if the present favorable weather continues a normal yield may be expected. The report from Consul-General Byington on the Naples crop indicates that the harvest will be early this season. A third of the crop has been harvested and the fiber is short and medium in quality. The balance of the crop is progressing well, for early July harvest and promises an average yield of good quality. An earlier mailed report from the Naples Consulate stated that the South Italian crop would not be so large as was anticipated early in the season. Dry weather for several weeks following planting did some damage although serious injury was averted by liberal falls of rain in late April and throughout May. The planting of a quantity of bad seed further reduced prospects.

Large stocks were still on hand the latter part of May. Prices which had been maintained at comparatively high levels dropped gradually during April but assumed an upward trend in May.

Average prices reported May 27, 1926 compared with March 30, 1925 and 1926 were as follows:

Grade	March 30, 1925	March 30, 1926	May 27, 1926
	Dollars per 100 pounds	Dollars per 100 pounds	Dollars per 100 pounds
Spago de Calzolaio	20.41	14.68	14.42
Paesano extra extra 1 chiaro			12.34
Paesano extra 1 chiaro ...	19.94	13.58	
Paesano extra 1	19.57	12.58	11.52
Paesano vero 1	18.64	12.30	10.70
Paesano extra extra scolorato	17.33	14.71	
Paesano extra scolorato ..	16.77		
Spontito I	26.09	21.79	18.51
Spontito II	25.16	20.97	19.50
Spontito III	24.23	19.96	18.42

INCREASE IN BULGARIAN HEMP

The production of hemp fiber in Bulgaria this year is placed at 5,291,000 pounds, compared with 3,990,000 pounds last year, according to a cablegram from the International Institute of Agriculture. Acreage in Czechoslovakia is estimated at 28,700 acres compared with 28,900 acres in 1925.

HENEQUEN

Receipts of Henequen at Progreso, Mexico, for the five months January to May of this year were the highest up to that time since 1920, being 309,730 bales compared with 293,194 bales in 1925, 155,219 in 1924, 231,323 in 1923 and 408,316 in 1920, according to a trade report. Shipments amounted to 299,178 bales compared with 299,226 in 1925, 114,848 in 1924 and 383,066 in 1920.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
H-17

July 7, 1926

FOREIGN NEWS ON FIBERS

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FAVORABLE OUTLOOK FOR ITALIAN HEMP CROP

Unofficial information received by the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome mentions good prospects for the quantity of hemp fiber to be harvested in Italy this year, and excellent prospects as far as quality is concerned. Large supplies of the best quality are expected. Since acreage is considerably below last year this report on harvest prospects is not interpreted to mean that the crop will approach last year's large production.

HENEQUEN

June sisal shipments from Progreso, Yucatan, totaled 25,570 bales of which 25,100 were billed for the United States, according to cabled advices from Hernan C. Vogenitz, American Vice Consul at Progreso. Total exports from January 1 to June 30 reached 324,748 bales against 342,357 bales for the first half of 1925. Stocks at Progreso on July 1, 1926, amounted to 112,325 bales, with about 25,000 bales more at Merida and 5,000 at Campeche. Stocks on July 1, 1925, at Progreso were only 29,439 bales. Prices were unchanged on July 1, 1926, with no prospects for early sales. The industry faces the probability of an acute depression.

A law has been passed by the State of Yucatan restricting the production of henequen, effective from the date of publication of the law, June 16, 1926, according to a report from Vice Consul Vogenitz. Reductions in the production are as follows:

"All planters who produce from 126,500 pounds to 253,000 pounds will reduce their production by 10%.

"All planters who produce from 253,002 pounds to 759,000 pounds will reduce their production 20%.

"All planters who produce from 759,002 pounds to 1,265,000 pounds will reduce their production 25%.

"All planters who produce 1,265,002 pounds or more will reduce their production 30%."

The basis taken for fixing the production of each planter will be the number of pounds which he may have delivered to the Sociedad de Henequeneros de Yucatan, Cooperative, Limitada, during the first year of its operation namely from June 1, 1925 to May 31, 1926.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
WASHINGTON

F.S.
HE-18

July 26, 1926.

FOREIGN NEWS ON FIBERS

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ITALIAN HEMP CROP OF GOOD QUALITY

Approximately one-third of the South Italian hemp crop had been harvested by the last of June, reports Vice-Consul Schott at Naples. This part of the crop flowered prematurely because of inferior seeds and dry weather. The fibers are short but are said to be strong with the color somewhat deficient. Continued rains during June, accompanied by high winds were favorable to the continued growth of the remainder of the crop, which had reached its full height. It is expected that the total yield will be a little above normal and that the fibers of the late growth will be long and of good texture.

ITALY: Naples hemp prices, in dollars per 100 pounds, June 1925 and 1926

Grade	June 25, 1925	June 21, 1926
	Dollars	Dollars
Spago da Calzolaio	18.42	13.38
Paesano extra extra 1 chiaro		12.46
" extra 1	17.67	11.53
" vero 1	16.82	10.29
" extra extra scolorato	15.65	
" " "	15.15	
Spontito I	23.50	20.00
" II	22.72	19.60
" III	21.87	18.78

EUROPEAN FLAX ACREAGE

Reports on flax acreage in Russia, which produces over half of the world's production of flax fiber, indicate an increase of acreage for fiber of 8 per cent above last year according to the International Institute of Agriculture. The fiber crop is forecast at 10 per cent above last year. According to latest estimates available last year's Russian total flax acreage was 3,676,000 acres and fiber production 890,658,400 pounds. Flax acreage in 10 European countries, aside from Russia, where it is grown both for seed and fiber is estimated at 595,488 acres. This is six per cent below last year when acreage for the same countries amounted to 634,589 acres. No reports have been received from Poland and Latvia both important producers, while Lithuania, a third country of importance shows practically no change in acreage. Decreases are reported for Esthonia and Czechoslovakia but an

increase is expected in France. The other countries reporting are not of sufficient importance to influence the final situation to any extent. Even if fiber production should be decreased in the countries reporting in accordance with the reduction in acreage the decrease would be small compared with the increase indicated for Russia.

NEW ZEALAND PHORMIUM PRODUCTION

During the year ending March 31, 1926, the total quantity of phormium tenax or so called New Zealand hemp, graded in New Zealand for export was 93,875 bales, an increase of 7,899 bales over the amount graded in the preceding year, reports Consul General Lowrie at Wellington. The percentage grading high fair was the same in both years, or 52 per cent.

The dominion's output of stripper tow increased by 1,661 bales, or from 1,318 to 2,978, and stripper slips by 1,241 bales or from 2,189 bales to 3,430 bales.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
HE-19

August 17, 1926

FOREIGN NEWS ON FIBERS

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INCREASING SISAL PRODUCTION IN SUMATRA

The production of sisal in Sumatra is becoming increasingly important, according to a report of Consul Sydney B. Redecker at Medan. The sisal output of Sumatra, as indicated by the exports, increased from less than 2,000 short tons in 1921 to over 20,000 short tons in 1925 and now exceeds the production of Java where the industry has been established for many years. Considerably over half of the sisal exported from Sumatra goes to the United States while the Netherlands and Germany are the other important markets.

Sisal production is at present confined to the Province of the Sumatra East Coast in Northern Sumatra, which is by far the most developed part of the island and where are situated practically all of the important European plantations for the growing of rubber, tobacco, oil palms, tea, coffee and coconuts. All of the Sumatra sisal production until now has been produced by one very large concern, the Handelsvereeniging "Amsterdam", according to Consul Redecker. This company also controls a considerable part of the production of sisal in Java. The sisal produced by this concern in both Java and Sumatra is marketed under the trade name "H. V. A." Another sisal estate, owned by the Kotta Pinang Culture Company and located in the south-central part of the Sumatra East Coast Province, is expected to come into production toward the close of the year. These are the only companies known to have sisal production under way.

The sisal produced in Sumatra is derived from the leaves of the sisal plant botanically known as the Agave Sisalana, and is of excellent quality. The high quality of the product is said to be due to the superior methods of preparing the fiber by means of the most modern machinery. The sisal is marketed in four grades, depending upon the length of the fiber and the amount of stained or dirty strands, as follows:

Grade "A" - Best grade fiber having a minimum length of 3 feet, selected and containing no green or stained fibers, dirt, etc.

Grade "B" - Second best grade, length from 2 to 3 feet, selected and containing no green or stained fibers, dirt, etc.

Grade "X" - Inferior grade, minimum length 3 feet, of deviating quality with mixture of stained and dirty fibers, etc.

Grade "Y" - Inferior grade, length 2 to 3 feet, of deviating quality, with mixture of stained and dirty fibers, etc.

Some experiments have been made on the production of abaca (manila hemp) by the Handelsvereeniging "Amsterdam" but it is said that the small amount so far produced has been inferior in quality to the product of the Philippine Islands.

The following table shows the exports of sisal from Java and Madura and from the other Dutch East Indies as shown in the official statistics. Sumatra accounts for practically all of the shipments outside of those of Java. It is noteworthy that, while the production of sisal in Java, as indicated by the exports, has remained on about the same level during the past few years, the production in Sumatra has increased tremendously.

DUTCH EAST INDIES: Exports of sisal

Year	Java and Madura	Other Dutch East Indies (chiefly Sumatra)	Total
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
1920...	17,793	1/	17,793
1921...	13,820	1,977	15,797
1922...	12,609	8,403	21,012
1923...	17,492	12,607	30,099
1924...	17,318	17,855	35,173
1925...	2/ 16,494	3/ 21,296	37,790

Compiled from Statistick van den Handel en de in-en Uitvoerrechten in Nederlandsch-Indie.

1/ Not separately stated.

2/ From De Indische Mercuur, April 7, 1926.

3/ From consular report 217782 on Increasing Production of Sisal Fiber in Sumatra.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

September 1, 1926

F.S.
HE-20

FOREIGN NEWS ON HEMP

- - - -

PROGRESS OF THE SOUTH ITALIAN HEMP CROP

Progress in harvesting the South Italian hemp crop has been retarded by rainy weather but the last of July harvesting was being done under ideal weather conditions and indications are for a crop of good quality and color, half of which will be of long fibre, according to Vice Consul Schott at Naples. Based on present condition the yield for Southern Italy may be a little above average or about 88 million pounds states Mr. Schott. Last year the production was about 86 million pounds. The harvest up to the last of July brought a yield slightly greater than anticipated. The fibres are short and strong, the color deficient, and most of the harvested crop will be used for tow.

Large stocks, mostly of inferior quality, are now on hand, probably reaching 22 to 26 million pounds.

Prices quoted by the Naples Chamber of Commerce and Industry on July 20, 1926, were as follows at the current rate of exchange:

	Price per 100 pounds
Spago da Calsolaio	$12.69
Paesano extra extra 1 chiaro	11.63
" " 1	11.11
" vero	10.05
Spontito 1	18.89
" 11	18.13
" 111	17.38

NORTH ITALIAN HEMP CROP

The total yield of hemp in Northern Italy this year is estimated at about 143,000,000 pounds, according to a cable from Consul Haven at Naples dated August 23. The quality is expected to be good. Production is estimated at 25 per cent less this year than last in the provinces of Bologna and Serrar.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

October 20, 1926

F.S.
HE-21

FOREIGN NEWS ON HEMP

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HEMP SITUATION IN SOUTHERN ITALY

The latest estimates place the 1926 hemp yield in the Naples district at about 76,000,000 pounds. Of this amount 30,000,000 pounds were produced in the Province of Naples and 46,000,000 pounds in the Province of Caserta, according to a report dated September 27 from Consul Finley at Naples. Last year's official estimate placed the hemp yield of these provinces at 83,000,000 pounds and hemp buyers are inclined to estimate this year's crop at only slightly less than that figure. The quality of this year's crop is average, although the harvest showed that many black streaks had developed in the fibers due to early flowering and subsequent failure of the stalks to mature. This condition, however, was not general. Some hemp which had been cut and was on the ground in July was darkened in color by the rains that occurred at that time. The carryover of last year's stock is placed at 6,614,000 pounds.

Direct hemp shipments to the United States have been very small this year, according to Consul Finley. From January 1 to September 23 the exports of hemp to the United States declared at the Naples Consulate General amounted to only 80,075 pounds valued at $18,351 as compared with 485,485 pounds valued at $135,687 during the first nine months of 1925. Much of the hemp destined for the United States market goes through English brokers, however, so the above figures include only a part of the Italian hemp consumed in the United States. The demand from British sources has been only fair so far this season, states Consul Finley, but German demand is very good. French and Belgian spinners are not taking as much hemp as last year. Future business is very dull and present buying is only for immediate needs. Fluctuations in the Italian lire have produced a great deal of uneasiness among European buyers of Naples hemp.

The following approximate prices f.o.b. Naples were effective on September 22d:

Grade	Lire per quintal	Dollars per 100 pounds
Spago de Calzolaio (shoemaker's) ..	710	11.86
Paesano, extra 1, clear	650	10.86
" " 1	620	10.35
" vero	580	9.69
Spontito, hand hackled:		
Grade 1	1,200	20.04
Grade 2	1,150	19.20
Grade 3	1,100	18.37
Spontito, machine hackled:		
Grade 1	1,500	25.05

The hemp discolored by the July rains was quoted as follows:

Grade	Lire per quintal	Dollars per 100 pounds
Paesano, extra extra	580	9.69
" extra	550	9.18
" vero	510	8.52

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
HE-22

December 7, 1926.

FOREIGN NEWS ON HEMP

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THE HEMP SITUATION IN NORTHERN ITALY

Although the prices in the hemp market of Northern Italy have followed the drop in prices of cotton, flax and jute, Italian growers and holders of stocks are reluctant to take their losses and reduce their prices so that the price of Italian hemp is comparatively higher than the values of other fibers on the international markets, states Consul J. E. Haven at Florence in a recent report.

Unfavorable economic conditions in European markets, particularly the United Kingdom, and the competition of other fibers has affected adversely the demand for hemp. Spinners in the United Kingdom have been forced to reduce imports on account of the coal strike and France and the Central European countries are buying sparingly. In the United States an increasing amount of jute and similar competitive fibers are being used to the detriment of Italian hemp, in the opinion of Italian hemp brokers interviewer by Consul Haven.

It is believed that large stocks of hemp will remain on hand in the autumn of 1927, due to the greatly decreased demand which is now being experienced, and if the price of flax, another competitive fiber, continues to fall as appears likely, there will be still less demand for hemp. The jute market also has a considerable influence on the prices of hemp. The price of jute "firsts" c.i.f. H. A. R. B. (Hamburg-Antwerp-Rotterdam-Bremen) was 48 per cent lower in October 1926 than in October 1925.

The October quotations for hemp f. o. b. Bologna, this year and last, were as follows:

HEMP: Prices per hundred pounds at Bologna

Grade	October 1925	October 1926
	Dollars	Dollars
Good	14.88 - 15.60	9.84 - 10.34
Medium	14.15 - 14.52	9.35 - 9.84
Ordinary	13.06 - 13.97	-
Poor	9.98 - 10.89	-

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